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Opening address by the Director of the Institute for Corporate Security Studies at the 4th international "Counterterrorism Challenges in the Region of Southeastern Europe" conference, Maribor, 27 - 29 September 2011

Dear Mr. President of the Republic of Slovenia, dr. Danilo Türk, dear Minister of Defence, dr. Ljubica Jelušič, dear Ambassador of the United States of America, Mr. Joseph A. Mussomeli, dear representative of the Centre for Civil-Military Relations from Monterey, USA, Dr. Paul Clarke, dear lecturers, dear invited guests and distinguished conference participants.

It is a great honour and joy to welcome you on behalf of the Institute for Corporate Security Studies and to say a few words to the 4th international conference with the main title "Counter terrorism challenges in the Region of South Eastern Europe", organised by the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia, the Embassy of the United States of America, the Centre for Civil-Military Relations from Monterey, USA and the Institute for Corporate Security Studies from Ljubljana.

Allow me to start my address with a thought, written down by one of the greatest Slovenian visionaries and experts in identifying and managing vulnerability, threat and security risks: "It is not wrong to take risks, but it is wrong to take risks without knowing that we are doing so and why as well as what for, what, how much and when to take them." May this thought guide me also into considering to what extent we are aware of risks that waylay us, our companies, organisations, local communities and states. When considering this, let us ask ourselves: "Are we truly aware of these risks, when, where and how they can be realised, what consequences they may have and how could these consequences mark our lives, work, thinking, development and, after all, society as a whole?"

Being aware of this draws our attention to the fact that critical infrastructure and its managing subjects are one of the first potential targets or objectives of attacks by terrorist and similar organisations. Models and schemes of operation of terrorist organisations suggest that terrorists possess the ability to invisibly integrate to even the smallest cells of society, to become organised and to wait even several years for the right moment to perform a terrorist act.

International, economic and professional associations have recently sought to identify not only the vulnerability of economic operators that manage critical



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infrastructure, but also broadly to recognise the vulnerability of the environment and society as a whole. In my opinion, the awareness of this vulnerability must be lowered to the level of every organisation and individual as the smallest cell in the organisation and society. This is the only way to ensure the necessary level of security culture and to become aware of the vulnerability, threat and security risks at all levels of the organisation and society as a whole.

Integration and merging of organisations and experts from various fields and environments of activity are one of the main activities and orientations of the Institute for Corporate Security that seek to develop new knowledge, experiences, findings and needs, through which corporate security interests in the national and international environment are pursued, herewith fulfilling its basic mission.

Let me end my address by wishing all participants a pleasant stay, a great deal of experience exchange and fruitful discussions.

Thank you for your attention!